



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/592,969	06/25/2008	Silvia Gerstner	2004P00358WOUS	4067

46726 7590 02/01/2011
BSH HOME APPLIANCES CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
100 BOSCH BOULEVARD
NEW BERN, NC 28562

EXAMINER

ROHRHOFF, DANIEL J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3637

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-------------------	---------------

02/01/2011

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

NBN-IntelProp@bshg.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/592,969	Applicant(s) GERSTNER ET AL.	
	Examiner DAN ROHRHOFF	Art Unit 3637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 January 2011.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-17 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18 and 19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-17 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 September 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The specification does not contain section headings. Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the refrigerator comprising an inner space enclosed by a heat-insulating housing of claims 10 & 20; and the door compartment of claim 17 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner,

Art Unit: 3637

the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

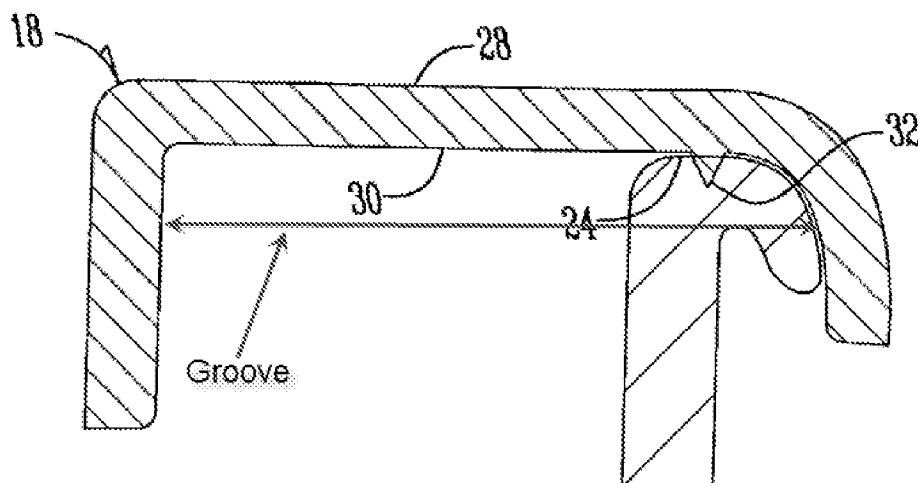
5. Claims 10-17 & 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leimkuehler et al. (US patent application publication 2003/0020385) (hereinafter Leimkuehler) in view of Fisher (US patent 1,967,666).

6. Regarding claim 10, Leimkuehler discloses a refrigerator comprising: an inner space (inside of 10) enclosed by a heat-insulating housing (walls of 10); at least one compartment (16) for accommodating articles to be cooled and being disposed within

the inner space (Fig. 1) and having a curved edge (24); and a strip (18) placed on the curved edge (Figs. 2-3) and including a plastic core (¶ 21).

7. Leimkuehler does not disclose a metal jacket holding the plastic core in a curved configuration. Fisher teaches an object (1) having a curved edge (perimeter of 1) surrounded by a metal jacket (6) holding a core (5) in a curved configuration (Fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the refrigerator of Leimkuehler wherein the edges of strip 18 are surrounded with a metal jacket as taught by Fisher, since it would have provided a decorative metal facing on the strip.

8. Regarding claim 11, Leimkuehler, as modified, teaches a refrigerator wherein the strip has a groove (see annotated Fig. 4) into which the edge of the compartment for accommodating articles to be cooled is inserted (Fig. 4).



Leimkuehler Fig. 4

9. Regarding claim 12, Leimkuehler, as modified, teaches a refrigerator wherein the depth direction of the groove is aligned transversely to the radius of curvature of the decorative strip (Fig. 4).

Art Unit: 3637

10. Regarding claim 13, Leimkuehler, as modified, teaches a refrigerator wherein the width of the groove increases, at least at certain points, from an inlet region of the groove to its bottom (Fig. 4 shows the width of the groove to increase from the top (inlet region) to its bottom).

11. Regarding claims 14-15, Leimkuehler, as modified, teaches a refrigerator wherein the jacket has a thickness (Fisher Fig. 2). Leimkuehler, as modified, does not teach a refrigerator wherein the jacket has a material thickness of about 0.1 to 0.3 mm. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the jacket such that its material thickness was about 0.2 mm.

12. Regarding claim 16, Leimkuehler, as modified, teaches a refrigerator with a plastic core (18) and a metal jacket (Fisher: 6). Leimkuehler, as modified, does not teach a refrigerator wherein the plastic core and the metal jacket are co-extruded. This claim is a product by process claim and the plastic core and metal jacket do not depend on the process of making it. The product-by-process limitation "co-extruded" would not be expected to impart distinctive structural characteristics to the plastic core and metal jacket. Therefore the claimed co-extruded metal jacket and plastic core is not different an unobvious from the plastic core and metal jacket of Leimkuehler, as modified by Fisher.

13. Regarding claim 17, Leimkuehler, as modified, teaches a refrigerator wherein the compartment for accommodating articles to be cooled includes a door compartment (Fig. 1).

Art Unit: 3637

14. Regarding claim 20, Leimkuehler discloses a refrigerator comprising: an inner space (inside of 10) enclosed by a heat-insulating housing (walls of 10); at least one compartment (16) for accommodating articles to be cooled and being disposed within the inner space (Fig. 1) and having a curved edge (24); and a strip (18) placed on the curved edge (Figs. 2-3) and including a plastic core (¶ 21) wherein the strip has a groove (see annotated Fig. 4) into which the edge of the compartment for accommodating articles to be cooled is inserted (Fig. 4).

15. Leimkuehler does not disclose the strip to have a metal jacket holding the plastic core in the curved edge. Fisher teaches an object (1) having a curved edge (perimeter of 1) surrounded by a metal jacket (6) holding a core (5) in a curved configuration (Fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the refrigerator of Leimkuehler wherein the edges of strip 18 are surrounded with a metal jacket as taught by Fisher, since it would have provided a decorative metal facing on the strip.

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments filed 1/10/11 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

17. Regarding applicant's arguments stating drawings which show the refrigerator inner space and the door compartment are not necessary because the subject matter of a bushing is known to a person of ordinary skill in the art and is enabled by the specification, the examiner disagrees. A bushing has nothing to do with the inner space of a refrigerator or a door compartment. The examiner presumes the comment

regarding a bushing was unintended and meant for a different application. In any regards, a drawing or drawings must be submitted which show each and every claimed feature of the invention; therefore the objection to the drawings remains.

18. Regarding applicant's arguments stating Leimkuehler in view of Fischer does not disclose a combination of the compartment and the strip, as disclosed by applicants, the examiner disagrees. Leimkuehler in view of Fischer discloses a compartment 16 and a strip 18 as recited in the claims. The differences that applicant argues on pages 8-11 are not recited in the claims. Applicant is reminded the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

19. Regarding applicant's argument stating Leimkuehler in view of Fischer does not disclose a strip manufactured by co-extrusion of the metal jacket with the plastic core which is then cut to length and bent to match the curvature of the compartment and used to provide reinforcement to the strip and enable snap fit engagement of the strip with the compartment. The claims are to the final product, not the process of manufacturing the final product. A product by process limitation is given little patentable consideration when determining patentability of a claimed product. In order for a product by process claim to be given more than little patentable consideration applicant must demonstrate that the manufacturing process imparts distinctive structural characteristics to the strip. Additionally, the intended use of a product is given little patentable consideration when determining patentability. In the instant case, the

intended use to provide reinforcement to the strip and enable snap fit engagement of the strip with the compartment in not recited in the claims.

20. Applicant's comments with regards to newly submitted claim 20 have been considered however, the claims are not patentable over Leimkuehler in view of Fisher.

Conclusion

21. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAN ROHRHOFF whose telephone number is (571)270-7624. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darnell Jayne can be reached on 571-272-7723. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3637

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. R./
Examiner, Art Unit 3637
1/24/11

/Janet M. Wilkens/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3637